



The Desert Whispers

from Johnson Valley

VOL. 1, NO. 10

THE MOJAVE DESERT, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 29, 1968

NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

Bea and Earl Roush gave a buen viaje party for Goldie Hopper prior to her trip to Ohio to visit her son and grandson. A host of close friends gave her a nice sendoff.

Marilyn and Howard Tiggeman spent a week at their cabin. Soon after they left, the cabin was entered, neighbors discovered. Vandals spilled catsup, oil, sugar and salt throughout. A few items were taken.

Terry and Patsy Dumond are spending a few weeks in the big city. While riding a bike, Terry took a spill and now sports five stitches in his chin.

Mary Neary enjoyed another week at her cabin. She and Gerry observed their 22nd anniversary on June 15.

Ronnie Roush is spending his three week vacation with his parents, Earl and Bea.

Maury Randall is recuperating from an appendectomy.

Clarence Estes has taken to the air. He passed his tests and is now building a landing strip behind his home. Congratulations, Clarence.

-by Aileen De Victoria

SHOUTS AND WHISPERS

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. (Jack) Waller were pleasantly surprised on Father's Day. Their son Rollie, from Long Beach, and son Jack, accompanied by a friend, Dick Woods, flew up to Johnson Valley for the day.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Estes have been welcoming guests even though Flossie is still on crutches from her fall of two months ago.

Granddaughter Bonnie, from Tillamook, Oregon, is visiting for three weeks.

Scheduled to arrive this weekend is a grandson, Charles G. Estes Jr., now in the U. S. Marines. Charles is a track champ from Alaska. He is on leave before going overseas.

Flossie and Clarence went to San Diego for Charles' graduation. He also was presented with a trophy and medal for expert rifleman.

PART TWO IN THE SERIES ON WATER WILL BE FOUND ON PAGE THREE. THE INFORMATION HAS BEEN CONDENSED FROM REPORTS FROM THE MOJAVE WATER AGENCY AND A SURVEY FOR THE LOCAL AREA.

ASSOCIATION HAS NEW NAME

The Johnson Valley Improvement Association will meet at 8 p.m., July 6, in the association hall on Larrea Road.

The title is the new name of the Grandview Improvement Association. The change was approved at the June meeting, and more accurately designates the expanded area now served by the organization.

Among those approving the change were four of the original members present when the GIA was created about 11 years ago, it was pointed out by C. E. Goodridge, in making the motion. Original members included James Cathey, Dan Jarvis, Alex Chernoff and Goodridge.

Members approved moving ahead with plans to construct a kitchen with the possibility of obtaining a loan. The discussion will be re-opened at the July meeting at the request of the executive board.

Changes in the by-laws were approved, and include renaming of the association and renaming the recreation and education committee to the Community Council, headed by Mrs. Charles Breese as chairman.

Other matters in the purview of the association include discussion of refuse disposal, telephone installation, the proposed water system, and creation of a park at Rock Corral.

Visitors are always welcome, according to Alex Chernoff, president.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEET CALLED

The executive board of the Johnson Valley Improvement Association will meet at 2 p.m. in the association hall on July 6, according to the president.

Discussion of the proposed construction of the kitchen and association insurance are included in agenda items.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO MEET

Members of the Community Council of Johnson Valley Improvement Association are requested to meet at 2 p.m. on July 6 at the association hall.

Mrs. Charles Breese, chairman, has called the session of the committee, previously the Recreation and Education Committee. Reorganization will provide for liaison with county agencies and make available additional county services in Johnson Valley.

CB SEMINAR

The Desert Sands Citizens Band Inc., has scheduled a seminar during the Labor Day weekend at California City.

Desert survival, search and rescue techniques, demonstrations and displays are planned.

Applications for reservations may be obtained from members of the local Desert Ears CB Club, or by writing Desert Sands at P. O. Box 63, California City, Calif., 93501.

* * *

SEARCH AND RESCUE MEET

The Johnson Valley Search and Rescue will meet at 6 p.m., July 13, at the Chisel Inn.

All persons interested in participating in the group operations are invited to attend.

A trial run will be held during the day of the meeting. Anyone with four-wheel drive vehicles or sand buggies is welcome to participate. Details may be obtained from Joe De Victoria at the Chisel Inn.

Dick DuBois was elected alternate co-captain at the June meeting of the unit.

Members attending were Earl and Bea Roush, Joe and Aileen De Victoria, Burt and Lucille Campbell, Bus and Ona Lamb, Burl Moore, Golda Gunning, Ruby Piner, Charlie Rope, Jack Inns and Dick DuBois.

* * *

BURNING REGULATIONS

Burning of refuse is permitted only in legal incinerators, according to Air Pollution Control District regulations.

Permits can be obtained from authorized Forestry Department personnel.

Burning is allowed between 6 and 11 a.m., and only when there is no high wind.

Special permits for burning piles of tumbleweed are available. Other items can be taken to county dumps. A dump south and east of Landers is the most accessible to Johnson Valley residents.

* * *

THREE INJURED IN THREE WEEKENDS

Two more persons have been injured in separate gun accidents in Johnson Valley. A woman and a boy about 19 suffered leg wounds on successive weekends.

A boy on a motorcycle was injured on the third weekend.

Emergency aid was provided to the victims by members of the Johnson Valley Search and Rescue.

* * *

LOCAL VOTERS

There are 85 registered voters in the Valley, according to Alex Chernoff, deputy registrar. It is anticipated that a polling place will soon be provided in Johnson Valley.

LEO'S SUPERMARKET
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FOR BEST BUYS
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FISH FRY EVERY FRIDAY

5:30 to 8 p.m.

At the Moose Lodge in Landers. The public is invited. Choice of fish or shrimp, \$1; or chicken, \$1.35.

JOHNSON VALLEY BRANCH OFFICE of

BILL HANSON REALTY, Timico Acres.

Bruce Hooker, Manager
Star Route 2, Box 802, Yucca Valley

5 acres with cabins, and parcels of 2½-5-10-20-40-80 acres. Ideal for investment. Now is the time to buy. There will be more and more people but no more land than now.

WATER
(Part Two)

According to a report from Koebig and Koebig, engineers for Mojave Water Agency, Lucerne Valley and Johnson Valley can meet the needs for water until 1979 by using the local ground supplies. The two communities could plan a joint-use pipeline for supplemental water, but costs will be excessive unless other areas join to import outside water.

Estimates are \$1.25 million if Johnson Valley should go it alone; while \$738,000 would be Johnson Valley's share if Lucerne Valley joined in. If Yucca Valley and Joshua Tree joined in the project, Johnson Valley's share is estimated at \$74,000, and obviously less if Coachella participated.

It is the duty of the Mojave Water Agency to monitor use of the basins, act as water master, and to arrange meetings for cooperative discussions by neighboring communities so that action can be taken before an emergency arises.

JOHNSON VALLEY DISTRICT

Koebig and Koebig have prepared a plan for a water system for Johnson Valley. Funds for the study were provided through a voluntary assessment of \$1 an acre from Johnson Valley property owners, who will be reimbursed if a district is formed and funds made available.

The proposed district includes sections 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17, and parts of 12, 18, 20, 21 and 22. At the time of the survey, 816 parcels and 493 dwelling units were included.

Local water is of marginal quality, according to Koebig and Koebig. They suggested drilling new wells in the northwestern part of the Valley, where a better quality of water is located.

The K and K plan calls for three pressure zones, making water available to all existing dwellings in the district, designated as District 1. The proposed system meets state, county and fire protection requirements.

Serving the district would be two wells, two well-pumping plants, two booster pumping plants, three storage reservoirs totaling 310,000 gallons, and 203,700 feet of pipeline.

An automatic control system keeps operating costs at a minimum. Cost estimates allow for extending existing power lines, although new lines might be readily available at time of construction of the water system. Fire hydrants are proposed near all existing dwellings, to be added as needed until all parcels are served at 660-foot intervals.

Initial construction cost is estimated at \$971,600, and the second phase at \$128,000. Wells and pumping plants could be located on government land, and pipes laid in streets and easements, eliminating cost of purchasing land, the report states.

Total bond authorization, including funded interest, bond discount, financing and legal fees bring the cost of the project to \$1,282,000. Bonds approved by the voters could be retired over a 30-year period. Revenues from water sales would pay the operating costs.

THE NITTY GRITTY

The property owner who uses the water and has a house would bear the brunt of the costs, and he is also the one with the vote. On a five-acre parcel with an assessed valuation of \$1,200, (land at \$200 and improvements at \$1,000) the cost for the first year is estimated at \$303. This drops annually to \$177 in the 30th year, when bonds are retired. From then on the charge is for the water, and a stand-by charge, possibly \$170 a year. An undeveloped parcel of five acres would be taxed \$22 for the first year, decreasing annually to about \$1 in the last year. A building boom would of course change the picture, spreading the cost.

Johnson Valley has no water system. Three attempts have been made, but all have fallen by the wayside.

Thoughtful consideration, cooperation, and friendly discussions can lead to a step in the right direction.

(To be continued in the July issue of the Desert Whispers)

FOR DESERT GARDENERS

An excellent booklet, "Ornamentals for California's Middle Elevation Desert" is available from the University of California Division of Agricultural Sciences, at no charge.

The brochure is hot off the press, and includes a large map so that readers may pinpoint their locations.

Palms, conifers, evergreens, deciduous trees and shrubs, vines and groundcovers are listed according to their adaptability to specific areas.

Wind and drought tolerance of the plants, rainfall, growing season and temperatures are among topics discussed.

Gardeners will find that growing conditions vary to a surprising degree in a small area.

Mapped out are Plantclimates, divided into Regional Plantclimates. These are composed of Plantclimate Zones which principally concern temperature requirements for plants. Then come sub-zones within which are microsubzones where exposure or shelter, either natural or man-made, cause different reactions. Mini-sub-zones can be a few square feet possibly influenced by a wall or shade tree.

These minute details answer some of the puzzling questions as to why the health of similar plants may vary from neighbor to neighbor. The danger of overwatering is also discussed.

Copies are available from the Los Angeles County Farm Advisor, 808 N. Spring St., Room 800, Los Angeles, 90012; or the University of California Agricultural Publications, University Hall, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. 94720.

CB CAMP OUT PLANNED

A two-day campout at Giant Rock is scheduled for members of the Desert Ears CB Club, July 19 and 20.

Participants should bring their own food and beverage. The restaurant will be open according to the announcement.

Plans include Saturday evening entertainment and prizes. Some members plan to stay until Sunday.

Fifty persons attended the June meeting and pot-luck.

President Burt Campbell presented gold membership pins to Morey and Tiny Randall at the farewell party for the couple given by Mildred and Elmer Jacobs.

VISITOR

Mary Beth Branson, niece of Golda Gunning, has been visiting her aunt here. She is from Walla Walla, Wash. She spent six weeks at Arrowhead Springs working for the Campus Crusade for Christ.

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Cabins \$2,250 and up
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Luther H. Colvin, Realtor
17 miles north of 29 Palms Hwy.,
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-Mal Olin, prop.

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ASSOCIATION. Promote orderly growth
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Annual dues \$2.50 single; \$5 a couple
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Yucca Valley, Calif. 92284

CHURCH SERVICES

LANDER'S COMMUNITY CHURCH
Off Old Woman Springs Road at the
Dixie Mine Road in Landers.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.
Hour-of-Power Wednesdays 7 p.m.

St. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Mesa Road, Lucerne Valley

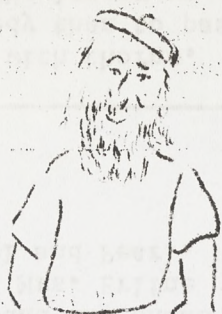
Sunday Masses at 8 and 11 a.m.
Rev. Patrick J. Scanlan, Pastor

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Star Route 2 Box 804
Yucca Valley, Cal. 92284
Martha Coutant editor
Marie Stanley associate editor
Stanley Coutant managing editor

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

Jack Inns, who dubs himself jack-of-all trades, and looks like a typical vintage prospector, has taken it upon himself to join the war against crime.



Jack has become a member of the International Association of Auxiliary Police, with headquarters in Florida, as a volunteer in promoting the aims of the organization. He is patrolling in Johnson Valley, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, to help protect property.

Jack is assisted by two-way radio, and Butch, man's best friend except to those bent on unfriendly business.

Inns is a native of Iowa. He went home for a couple of years, but the 30 below temperatures sent him shivering back to California. He spent eight years in the U. S. Naval Reserve, one hitch during World War II. He can repair about anything, from shoes to sewing machines, paint, and is an avid reader.

Jack has three children, two married daughters, and a son in the Forestry Dept. At the last count, there were ten grandchildren.

Jack can not charge for his volunteer patrolling, but he can accept donations toward the gas he uses. Obviously all of us benefit when anyone keeps an eye out for strangers.

Jack is a member of the Desert Ears CB Club and the Johnson Valley Search and Rescue.

To aid in the protection of property, the Desert Whispers is providing a coupon so that property owners may contribute, and keep Jack on the prowl.

Mail to Jack J. Inns, Star Route 2, Box 811, Yucca Valley, Calif. 92284.

Here is my donation to the volunteer patrol service you are providing to the property owners in Johnson Valley.

Name.....

Location of desert property.....

.....

Mailing Address.....

.....

.....ZIP.....

Phone

THE OLD HORN TOAD COOLS IT

Air conditioning has been installed under our rock. But it can be turned off by evening, and nights are as beautiful as ever.

No more push-ups. Now it's a twist board to baroque jazz and the possibility of a horned toad with a waistline.

* *

Welcome to our more than 30 new subscribers. Thank you for your words of encouragement. A mailing list can be interesting in what it reveals about people.

Found my first Indian artifact, almost in the front yard, a bit of red-tinged pottery about two inches square.

* *

Still looking for information regarding the naming of Johnson Valley. It was not named after LBJ to indicate we are all staunch Democrats.

But there was Hell Roaring Johnson, who was killed in a gun-fight in Holcomb Valley. He tried to kill the constable! His friends formed a lynching party but were finally persuaded to disperse, according to one of Russ Leabrand's fine guidebooks, "Exploring California Byways."

Then there was A. M. Johnson, Death Valley Scotty's partner. And it was reported there was a miner around here who disappeared, and also a Johnson who lived in the north part of the Valley. Maybe one and the same. We'll keep sleuthing.

* *

Frank P. Hensley writes he is taking an early retirement from the Los Angeles Times in July. The Hensleys plan to spend at least two years in Asheville, N. C. The Desert Whispers will follow them, and we hope lure them back to their Johnson Valley property, which they agree is the most beautiful spot in the entire desert area.

* *

NEW HOURS FOR THE CHISEL INN

CLOSED MONDAY AND TUESDAY
Wednesday 12 noon to 10 p.m. plus
Thursday 12 noon to 10 p.m. plus
Friday 12 noon to 2 a.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. plus

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Letters To The Editor

A PLEA FROM SECTION 17

"Does anyone have a suggestion as to how property owners can stop motorcycle and Honda riders from riding across private property, cutting deep ruts and unsightly trails in all directions? This is becoming a serious problem in many areas of our High Desert.

"Those people who can only spend weekends in their cabins, as well as the permanent residents are all striving to improve their places and keep the desert a lovely place to live in and to enjoy. Are we to be defeated by the cycle crowd?

"It is most discouraging to spend an entire weekend landscaping and working on one's place, then return the following weekend to find it all ruined by cycle trails through everything. No trespassing signs, rock outlined corners, and various other methods are no help or deterrent. Has respect for the rights of others become obsolete? Do we live today by the rule I will do what I want, no matter how it affects you?"

"I am sure no one objects to cycle riders per se, BUT wanton destruction of property by them is another story. There are enough established roads in the desert for them to ride on, and if they must ride open country, unclassified land is available where there are no homes."

- A Reader

(The cycle riders are our neighbors and friends. We hope they respond to this reasonable plea before more drastic action is required. There is room for all of us to enjoy the desert. -Ed.)

MORE SHOUTS AND WHISPERS

Audrey Brown, Marie Stanley's daughter, is hospitalized following a heart attack. Best wishes for a speedy recovery, Audrey, from your Johnson Valley friends.

* * *

Who needs a cute little German-Shepherd-Collie pup? Or a kitten? Or both? Choice of four pups and five kittens. See Jody De Victoria. Inquire at the Chisel Inn.

* * *

Aileen and Joe De Victoria hosted another of their delightful affairs at the Chisel Inn Saturday. Hippies in colorful array took over the place, in bells and beads. Nancy Dumond and Howard Tiggeman received prizes for being the hippiest.

* * *

A young visitor dispatched a 41-inch Mojave rattler near the Cole rancho last week. Gary Hyde found the snake while he and his mother, Mrs. Erline Hyde, were visiting Ancel and Pearl. Is that a record?

* * *

Life is thickly sown with thorns, and I know no other remedy than to pass quickly through them. The longer we dwell on our misfortunes, the greater is their power to harm us.

-Voltaire

Contributors column

THE REST OF THE ROAD

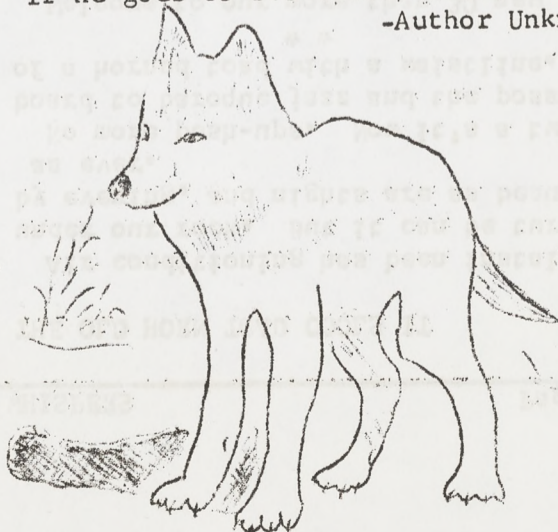
When my mind feels soiled by cities
And my ears are deaf with din;
When I've had too much of people
And my nerves are drawn too thin

I seek the desert's silence
Where the mighty mesa stands
Like the ruins of old cathedrals
In a vast impressive land.

I bathe my heart in stillness
As cool as a mountain lake,
I ease my mind's hot tension
And end its fevered ache.

The desert is old in wisdom
That the ancient gods have known,
And a man may know its healing
If he goes to its heart alone.

-Author Unknown



CREATIVE COMFORT

Although temperatures may reach 114° here on the High Desert, not many gripes are voiced.

Everyone seems to have found a way to cope.

Birdie Adam just had a front porch enclosed at her home.

The Dean Petersons also enclosed a porch.

Sarge and Marie Stanley have installed the largest air conditioner in the area. Charles Brundle and George Farmer did the installation. Marie can now open a fur cold storage business.

The Jarvises have also gone the air conditioner route.

* * *

Y'ALL SAY HELLO TO DIXIE

We welcome to the staff this month, Dixie M. Peyton, who will from time to time provide us with some art. She did the Old Horned Toad.

Dixie leads a busy life. She is working full time in the graphic arts division at California Institute of Technology. She and her family, (mother, father and sister) also operate Continuous Creativity, doing custom work in jewelry, leather, ceramics, woods, sewing and weaving. Her father's specialty is furniture and boot jacks.

Dixie is a graduate of Franklin High School in Los Angeles, and Pasadena City College where she majored in art and printing. She majored in art at California State College at Los Angeles.

Dixie lets her art engulf her. In her bedroom she is crowded into a corner by a full-sized counterbalanced loom on which she creates pictures, placemats and table covers. She plans to convert the loom to a jack loom. She turns out a variety of items on the potters wheel. She also paints, and her hippie necklaces, or should we say beads, are marvels of symbolism.

It's difficult to do art in mimeograph but we'll give it a try. Anyway, we are glad to have Dixie around. She's the greatest bundle of enthusiasm that ever tried to revive this tired old world.

-M. C.

The world is divided into two classes: those who go ahead and do something and those who sit still and inquire why it isn't done the other way.

-Theodore Roosevelt

MORE NEIGHBORS

Scorpions

There are more than 20 species of scorpions found in the deserts of the Southwest. Two can be deadly to children, or adults in a rundown condition. They are slender, with thin tail segments. They can be identified by the tiny notch, called the subaculear tooth, just in front of the stinging spine.

Scorpions are found under rocks and wood, and often enter houses.

To avoid being stung, pick up objects carefully. Do not walk around barefooted. Check your bedding, shoes and clothing.

Even the species not classed as deadly should be avoided. The sting of any scorpion is painful, and should be treated with an ice pack.

Solpugid

Often confused with the scorpion is the solpugid, Sun spider, "Child of the Earth," or Nina de la Tierra.

This little creature is feared and slaughtered, although it has no poison and eats scorpions and other insects.

The Vinegaroon or Whip scorpion is also harmless, although it has a reputation of being dangerous.

Centipede

The centipede may grow to eight inches and can inflict a painful and poisonous bite that is slow to heal.

It bites with mandibles, and not with its feet as is often supposed.

Application of an antiseptic is recommended by those who know.

Horned Lizard

Horned toads, really horned lizards, come in a variety of sizes and colors. It is illegal to capture them in most western states. It is reportedly true that a horned toad can shoot blood from his eyes. This one wears glasses the better to see you with and try to read your mind.



YOUR NEIGHBORS

There are more than 30 species of scorpions found in the deserts of the Southwest. You can be deadly to scorpions. They are a random component of the desert. They are abundant with their tails raised. They can be identified by their body, called the subcapitulum, which is in front of the stinging feet, four in front of the stinging feet.

THE DESERT WHISPERS FROM JOHNSON VALLEY Star Route 2, Box 804 Yucca Valley, Calif. 92284

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CREATIVE GIFT

Although temperatures may reach 110 here on the High Desert, not every artist is a scorpion. Everyone seems to have found a way to cope. Little Adam just had a paint porch enclosed by her home. The Jean Peterson also enclosed a porch. George and Marie Stanley have installed the largest air conditioner in the area. Charles Brumby and George Taylor did the installation. Little can now own a low cold storage business. The Jarvis have also gone the air conditioner route.

Y'all, say hello to Dixie. We welcome to the staff this month Dixie M. Taylor, who will from time to time provide us with some art. She did the old framed book. Dixie leads a busy life. She is work- ing full time in the graphic arts division at California Institute of Technology. She and her family (mother, father and sister) also operate Continuous Creativity, doing custom work in jewelry, leather, ceramics, woods, sewing and weaving. Her father's specialty is furniture and book jackets.

Dixie is a graduate of Franklin High School in Los Angeles, and Pasadena City College where she majored in art and printing. She majored in art at California State College at Los Angeles. Dixie's new art project is in her bedroom she is remodeling a corner by a full-sized cot, which she converted into a full-sized cot, which she converted into a full-sized cot, which she converted into a full-sized cot.

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